

ORGANIZE LEAGUE TO HELP NEGROES

Welfare Work to Be State-wide, but
Early Activities Will Be in
Northeast Section.

AUGUSTUS V. HAMBURG PRESIDENT

By the adoption of bylaws and the election of officers the organization of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was effected yesterday afternoon at the Board of Trade rooms. As the bylaws say, "to carry on welfare work for negroes and to improve their social, economic and moral condition in urban communities" throughout the state, the league will, it is believed, devote its initial efforts to the northeastern section, especially Essex, Hudson, Bergen and Passaic counties, where the recent influx of negroes from the South has been felt particularly.

More than 100 members of the new organization from this city, the Oranges, Montclair, Cranford, Westfield, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Morristown, Paterson, Passaic and other nearby places are present. Augustus V. Hamburg, former president of the Board of Trade, presided. Mr. Hamburg announced the receipt from "a good friend" of \$190 to help in the work.

Officers elected are: President, Mr. Hamburg; vice president, Rev. Oravia Bonfield, this city; second vice president, Dr. George E. Cannon, Jersey City; secretary, Rev. John D. Holden; treasurer, Arthur W. McDougall, both of this city. Mr. Hamburg and Mr. McDougall will hold office only until the league is well on the way to the accomplishment of beneficent ends. A board of managers of seventy-five and an executive committee of twenty-one members were chosen. Indications that much of the league's early work will be done in Newark and vicinity is contained in the personnel of these bodies, more than half in each case being from Essex County.

Any citizen of the state is eligible to membership. The executive committee, which will supervise the active work of the league, will meet monthly. The committees of the league are exemplified by the committees named in the bylaws: employment, training and friendly visiting.

MINUTES OF THE NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE

January 23 1917.

Speakers at Meeting

Six speakers addressed the league: Bleeker Marquette, secretary to the tenement committee of the Charity Organization Society of New York City; Douglas Falconer, superintendent of the Dr. Fisher's Aid Society; Dr. Fisher, president of the New England Missionary Convention, of Washington; W. R. Valentine, principal of the downtown Industrial School; B. Pendleton and Rev. A. N. Bline of this city.

Mr. Marquette thought the league should devote its early efforts to the housing problem. Illness and death lurked in poorly constructed tenements, dark rooms, inadequate sanitary facilities, the indiscriminate taking of roomers and bad repair its mark. The principal dangers, he thought, were more careless with and do less negro tenants than for whites. He knew that the city authorities were so insistent on getting good housing facilities for their colored population as for their white brothers.

Mr. Stubblebine stressed the need of hospitals and employment bureaus for negroes, Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. facilities, care of colored prisoners after release from jails, cancer regulation and scientific tuberculosis. Miss Pendleton stressed housing conditions.

Mr. Johnson told of the need of the league and will on the part of the new league. "We are not so poor and some would take us to be. We have as many classes of citizens and as many who are to reach out and make some life as any other race." Mr. Johnson told of the boys' work at the league.

To extend the scope of the league mass meeting will be held soon to the public.

Jahud B. Baldwin
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